

Ana María  
Josepha de  
Soto



Antonio Quiterio  
Aceves



Casimiro  
Varelas



Domingo Alviso



My name is Antonio Quiterio Aceves. I am 35 years old. My wife's name is Feliciana Cortés, and she is 30 years old. We have five children: three boys, Cipriano 6 years old, Gregorio 4 and Juan Pablo 1, and two girls, Petra 12 and Gertrudis 3. We also have living with us José Antonio who is 20 years old. We were both from Durango, but times became hard for us there, so we went to Culiacán. There I was a farm worker, but life was no better. Last spring when Commander Anza set up his recruiting table in the plaza asking for men who would like to join the army and help start a new presidio in Alta California, I listened to him. I went home and told my wife that I would be joining. It will be a hard trip as our youngest children will have to ride with us on our horses, but we hope for a better life.

My name is Ana María Josefa Soto, and I am a 35-year-old española. My husband's name is Juan Francisco Bernal, and he is 38. We have seven children, five boys: Dionicio 17 years old, Joaquín 15, Juan Francisco 14, Apolinario 10, and Tomás Januario 7 and two girls: Ana María 5 and Teresa 2. My husband and the older boys had been working on Rancho El Tule near Villa de Sinaloa, when Commander Anza came to our town asking for recruits. My husband and I thought this would give much greater opportunity for our sons. The boys also hope to enlist in the army when they are old enough. Here you need to have six horses and a mule just to be eligible to enlist. There will be a large herd of cattle and horses on the expedition and my husband and boys will be very useful in helping drive the herds.

My name is Domingo Alviso. I am 35 years old. My wife's name is Ángela Trejo, and she is 30-years-old. We have four children, three boys, Francisco, 14, Xavier 12, and Juan Ignacio 5 months and one little girl, María Loreto 8 years old. I was stationed at San Miguel de Horcasitas. Last spring Commander Anza asked me if I would be willing to accept a transfer to the expedition to Alta California to help found a new presidio. One of the conditions was that my wife and children travel with me. I was doubtful, as my wife was expecting our fourth child any day and Juan Ignacio was born only a few days after I accepted. I am a soldier and she is a soldier's wife, so we are here.

My name is Casimiro Varelas, and I am 27 years old from Sinaloa. My wife's name is Juana Santa Ana Pinto, and she is 16 years old. We have one little boy, Juan Antonio who is 5 months old. Last April my father-in-law enlisted in Commander Anza's expedition to Alta California, and two weeks later my wife's sister and her husband also agreed to go. This would leave my wife as the only one of her family here. She has pleaded with me to ask the Commander to allow us to go also as part of the family. We have been offered food and supplies to make the trip and land and tools and stock to become established there. I decided that this is a good idea and have been accepted.



Father Pedro  
Font



Francisca Xavier  
Valenzuela



Gertrudis  
Peralta



Gertrudis Rivas



My name is Francisca Xaviera Valenzuela and I am 33 years old. I lived with my husband, Gabriel Peralta, a veteran soldier, at the Presidio of Terrenate. He is 40 years old. We are both españoles and have four children; three boys: Juan José 18 years old, Luis 16, and Pedro 15. Our daughter Gertrudis, is 9 years old. My husband was chosen by Colonel Anza to go with him to Alta California to serve at a new presidio, and he has accepted the assignment. I am not too happy about the trip, since it will be a hard journey and there are only ten tents for all the soldiers, recruits and their families. I know that my boys will be a big help to all the families and to me as we travel along and, as he can read and write, I am sure that Gabriel will be promoted at the new Presidio.

My name is Father Pedro Font. I was born in 1737 in Gerona, in Catalonia, Spain. After becoming a Franciscan priest, I came to New Spain as a missionary to teach the Indians our Catholic religion and all the advantages of becoming loyal subjects of the Spanish Crown. I trained at the College of the Holy Cross of Querétaro and was assigned to the Mission San José de Pimas in Sonora, New Spain. This year I have been asked to accompany Commander Juan Bautista de Anza on a trek to Alta California from the Tubac Presidio. I met him in Horcasitas in September. I will be responsible for the spiritual life of the about 300 people who will be on this trek. I have been asked to go because of my expertise in the use of the English quadrant. This instrument will allow me to record the latitudes as we travel. This information will be very important for map-makers and for future travelers. I have also been asked to bring along my psalterio (a special kind of harp.) The Indians may enjoy its music.

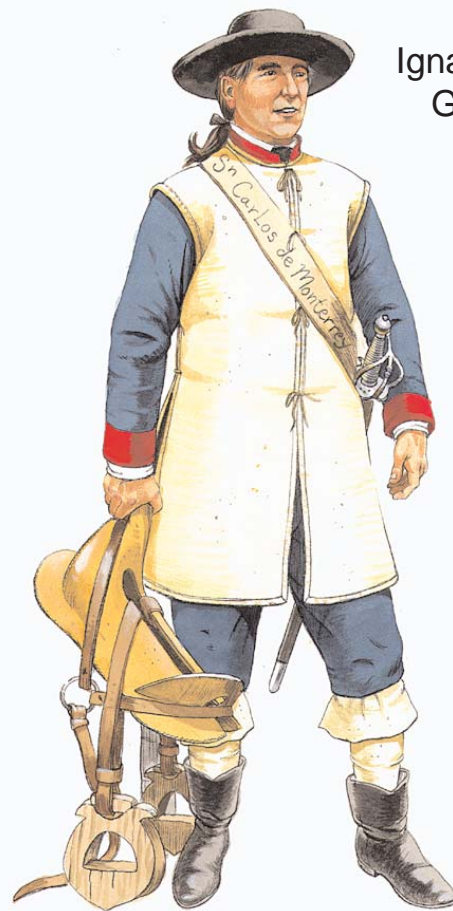
My name is Gertrudis Rivas, and I am a 22-year-old española. I am married to Ignacio Linares who is a 30-year-old Indian. We have three children. Our girls are: Gertrudis 7 years old and Juliana 3. Our son Ramón is 4 years old. I lived with my soldier husband at the Presidio of Horcasitas when he was chosen by Commander Anza to go with him to Alta California to serve at a new presidio, and he has accepted the assignment. I am not too happy about it, as I am expecting another child in December. I don't know what will happen when the baby is born, but there have been five births so far, and Commander Anza has been very careful to be sure that the women were well cared for. Many of the other wives on this trip have very young children also.

My name is Gertrudis Peralta, and I am 25 years old. My husband's name is Antonio Sotelo and he is 29 years old. We have one child Ramón who is 5 years old. We will also bring along a 12-year old boy, Juan Antonio. Last April Commander Anza came to Villa de Sinaloa and set up a recruiting table in the plaza. My husband came home and told me that if he enlisted we would all get a complete set of clothes. When he did enlist, this is what I received: 3 blouses, 3 white cotton petticoats, a heavy skirt, a light skirt, an undershirt, 2 linen jackets, 2 pairs of fine stockings, 2 pairs of everyday stockings, 2 pairs of shoes, 1 hat, and 6 yards of ribbon. I have never had this fine a wardrobe in all my life.





Gregorio Antonio  
Sandoval



Ignacio María  
Gutiérrez



Isabel  
Berreyesa



Joaquín Isidro  
Castro

My name is Ignacio María Gutiérrez. I am 30 years old, and am an Indian. My wife's name is Ana María de Osuna. She is 25 years old, and an Indian as well. We have two girls: María de los Santos 8 years old and Petrona 7. Last spring Commander Anza came to Culiacán to ask for men who would like to join the army. He said that we would have the opportunity to learn how to be soldiers and then travel to Alta California. We will be given land in Alta California and can settle in the new colony there. I would be willing to move to Alta California to help establish a new presidio, because our life here has been very hard. We hear that Alta California is a good place to live. After a long discussion with my wife, I decided to go along, despite the hazards and length of the trip. My wife is expecting our next child very soon, but there have been other children born so far on the expedition.

My name is Gregorio Antonio Sandoval, and I am a 30 year old widower. My wife-to-be is Dolores Ontiveros who is 19. We will be married by Father Font when we arrive at San Xavier del Bac Mission. Several months ago I was living in Chihuahua when the word came that Commander Anza was recruiting soldiers for a new settlement in Alta California and would consider anyone. I was too poor to marry again and this would allow me. I convinced my girl friend, Dolores, that I would go to Horcasitas and enlist and she could come to San Xavier del Bac in Sonora, where we would be married. I have heard that she has arrived there. We have waited a very long time, and this is our opportunity. I was not allowed to enlist because I was not married, but I will be soon.

My name is Joaquín Isidro Castro. I am 43 years old. My wife's name is Martina Botiller, and she is 40 years old. We are both españoles. We have been blessed with eight children: five boys, Ignacio Clemente 22 years old, Mariano 14, Joaquín 7, Francisco 5, and Carlos Antonio, 6 months and three girls, Ana Josefa 18, Encarnación 8, and Martina, 4. We are also bringing a 9 year old Indian boy from Guasave that we have given the name, Francisco Antonio Castro. I have had a very hard time earning enough to support my large family. By joining Commander Anza's expedition, I can be certain that they will all be provided with food and clothing now. When we get to Alta California, I will also get land and stock to provide more for them.

My name is Isabel Berreyesa, and I am a 18 year old. My brother's name is Nicolás Antonio Berreyesa, and he is 15 years old. Both our parents have died and left us alone. It has been very hard for us to make a living, and we have become very poor. When Commander Anza came to Villa de Sinaloa, we heard that some of our neighbors have enlisted. I have no husband and Nicolás is too young to join the army, but we begged Commander Anza to let us come along. Nicolás can help with the animal herds and I can help with the children. Captain Anza finally consented. Perhaps Nicolás will become a soldier when he is older.